

Region 2 Headquarters 3201 Spurgin Road Missoula, MT 59804 Phone 406-542-5500

March 30, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review, the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposal to renew a 6-year Cooperative Habitat Management Lease Agreement with E Bar L Ranch (O. W. Potter Exemption Trust). Under this arrangement, 17.4 acres of tame grass pasture on FWP's Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) would be leased for livestock grazing, in exchange for yearlong deferment of livestock grazing on 151.6 acres of elk winter range on the E Bar L Ranch. The agreement would be valid from October 15, 2015 to December 15, 2020.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website http://fwp.mt.gov ("News," then "Public Notices"). Comments may be made online on the EA webpage or may be directed by mail or email to the addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 28, 2015.

As part of the decision making process under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), I will issue the Decision Notice for this EA after the end of the comment period.

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold

Regional Supervisor

RA/sr